



BLACK SHEEP PEN

CHAPTER A, DES MOINES

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October 2019

Chapter **G2G**

First Saturday of every month at
Cozy Café

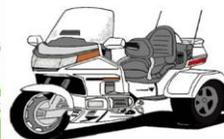
8385 Birchwood Court

Johnston, Iowa 50131

515-270-8000

Breakfast 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

BS G2G @ 9:00 AM





CHAPTER A TEAM MEMBERS



- Chapter Directors- Dennis Irvin and Donna Bainter-McCullough
- Assistant Chapter Directors-Mark Smidt and Melissa Catron
- Membership Enhancement Coordinators-John and Pam McDowell
- Treasurer-Rick Halbur
- Web Master- Scott Johnson
- Newsletter- Melissa Catron
- Ronald McDonald House Coordinator-Louise Ballard-Green



SHEPARD'S STORIES



Dennis Irvin & Donna McCullough

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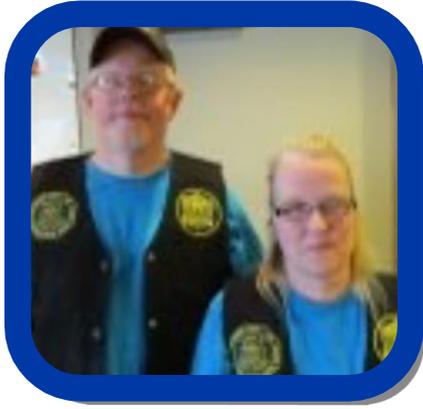


I held off on this for a little bit so I could include notes from the District Rally. The 2019 District Rally is now in the history books. It was another fun time. Thank you to the District staff who worked hard to make this a great event. Thank you to all who attended and had a lot of fun. Those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a good time. There were two rides every day and if that was not something you wanted to do, they had on bike games, off bike games, a vendor installing lights who was kept busy, or you could just hang around and talk with friends old and new. Plenty of snacks. The chili dump on Friday night was a hit and the catered meal on Saturday was very good. We had a good contingent of chapter A members in attendance. Thank you to everyone who went and participated. Next year it is going to be in Fairfield. Start making your plans now.

I hope everyone is getting out and riding. We still have plenty of days that weather should be good and we can put some miles in. We still have a number of dinner rides left. Our fall ride is the 2nd weekend in October. Plans are still in the works. We are working on another retirement center event giving residents rides. That is at Calvin Community. Will hopefully hear back from them in the very near future. We also have our holiday events. Keep an eye on the calendar and the Facebook page for updates.

Lastly, we are still looking for anyone interested in the Road Captains Course we are putting on. This is October 5th after the gathering. We have secured a room at DMACC for the classroom part and we can make some nice rides out of there to complete the road portion of this.

Take care everyone. See you out on the road.



SHEEP OUTFRIDERS

Mark Smidt and Melissa Catron

Assistant Chapter Directors

markmelissa@yahoo.com



Happy October!! Scary witches, ghosts and goblins and of course CANDY, CANDY, CANDY will be running around very soon.

Congratulations again to Roger and Laura Black on being the 2019 Couple of the Year for our chapter. You both have been such a great support to the Chapter both in the past and during the last year! Looking forward to seeing you both at more chapter functions and enjoying good times with you both.

After the October 5th meeting don't forget to attend the Road Captain Course that will be held at the DMACC Campus Building 14. This is a good time to brush up on your skills or to learn how to be a Road Captain.

With winter around the corner, I know that space is limited for us to gather as a group, but I would like to do some type of game night or movie night since we will not be doing dinner rides during this time. This way we can stay in touch with members to see what is new, is there anything we can do to help, or just hang out and have a good time.

Don't forget to keep saving your pop tabs, dog and cat food tabs, soup tabs for Ronald McDonald House.



SHEEP HERDER'S

John and Pam McDowell

Membership Enhancement Coordinators

pamandjohnsr@msn.com



It's always sad when the days get shorter and the nights get colder. Autumn is here now, so ride when you can and be safe. Watch out for deer!

On Aug. 22 there was an Ice Cream Loop Ride to Frostee's in Winterset. It was a small turnout, but the weather was perfect and the ice cream delicious!

On Aug. 31-Sept. 2 Mark Tilton and Roberta McAfee hosted the Labor Day Weekend, with camping and rides, at the McTil Farm near Anita, IA.

On Sept. 6 & 7 several Black Sheep went to the New Hampton Rally for a fun weekend of camping, rides, entertainment and vendors.

On Sept. 10 we had 12 Black Sheep go to Kennybrook Village in Grimes to give the residents rides on the trikes. They loved it so much, we are invited back next year!

Sept. 14 was our Get Together at the Cozy Café in Johnston, where a small intimate group of Black Sheep attended.

On Sept. 20-21 the Iowa District Rally will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Oelwein, IA.

Sept. 26 is a Loop Ride to the Checkerboard Restaurant in Pleasantville (108 E Monroe St.) Meet at Southridge Mall near Sears. Ride starts at 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 is our Get Together at the Cozy Café in Johnston (8385 Birchwood Ct.). Breakfast buffet starts at 8 a.m. and the G2G starts at 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 10 is a Loop Ride to the Wig & Pen in Ankeny (2005 S. Ankeny Blvd.) Meet at Bomgaars (5049 NE 14th St.) Ride starts at 6:30 p.m. weather permitting.

Oct. 24 is a Meet & Eat at Bonanza in Des Moines (5029 NE 14th St.) Meet at 6 pm

Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. is the Black Sheep Halloween/Mystery Party at the Carlisle Community Building (35 Vine St) in Carlisle.

As always, refer to the Chapter A website calendar for event details and any changes that may occur.

John and Pam McDowell Chapter A MEC's



RAM WISDOM



Greg Hayes

Iowa District Educator

515.229.1597

hayeswing@gmail.com



From your District Educator,

Over the years it seems that I have accumulated quite a few tools. I have a large variety of wrenches, hammers, power tools, saws, garden tools, Allen wrenches, screwdrivers, etc. As a special need arises, I found it necessary to make a trip to one of the big box stores to get the right tool for a particular job. Sometimes, I have tried to use a substitute tool that I had already that been not quite right for the task. This often leads to making the job harder, or it leads to messing up the job altogether.

I know a lot of District members are into quilting or other types of handcrafts. I would assume they also know the value of having the right tool for the job. They may have different scissors or cutting tools for different purposes. They also know the importance of having tools that are in good condition and ready for use when they need them. I doubt anyone is going to use rusty, dull scissors to cut fabric. I am not going to rely on a dull saw to cut a nice piece of wood. Power tools that use batteries need batteries that are fully charged and can hold that charge.

Likewise, we all need a variety of sharp and ready tools for our motorcycling. The tools we need for riding might include a good set of wrenches. But, another type of tool are our skills. We start out with a few of these tools (skills) as a beginner. Then, with more experience riding, we are both sharpening these tools and we are adding to our tool kits.

The two ways to improve our existing skills is through purposeful practice and through constructive feedback. The purposeful practice we can do on our own. This might be in a parking lot for some slower speed skills. We can also do this by using self-analysis in our day-to-day riding on the streets, thinking about how well we are doing braking, swerving and shifting. Getting out and riding curvy roads will help improve our cornering skills.

To obtain constructive feedback we typically need to attend refresher classes, such as the ARC and TRC classes. I have not had that type of feedback for quite some time. However, I recently attended a class in Illinois where I was the student. I tended to know what I was doing wrong but it was very helpful to have feedback from a coach that could see what I was doing from a different angle than I am able to see from my bike seat. I am now on a quest to get more training at other facilities.

I am also looking for obtaining more tools that I can use on the road. One of the skills that was taught in the class in Illinois had me stop behind some cones, simulating a car in front of me. Then a coach would sneak up from behind and yell. I was to pull out and around the cones in a different direction than where the coach was coming from. The point of the exercise was realizing how much room you would need to perform this maneuver, how to use a swerve to avoid hitting the back of the vehicle in front of you and to be "situationally aware" when you come to a stop. Another tool for the tool kit.

We should be ever searching for more tools we can use to keep us safe on the roads. There are both tools involving physical skills as well as those that are more mental, such as ways to be more situationally aware. Taking classes, watching YouTube videos and reading articles are all great ways to pick up new and improve existing skills. I just don't think you can have too many tools. However, we must be also able to properly maintain the tools that we already have.

Until next month, I wish you safe riding!

Greg Hayes

UPCOMING EVENTS



GWRRA UNIVERSITY FLYER TRAINING EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT



IOWA DISTRICT IS HOSTING A TRAINING EVENT ON

October 5, 2019

EVENT ADDRESS: 2006 S Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, Iowa

EVENT LOCATION: DMACC Ankeny Campus Building 14

EVENT HOURS: 10am

THE CLASSES BEING OFFERED INCLUDE:

UNIVERSITY CLASSES

Road Captain

RIDER EDUCATION (ARC, TRC, etc.)

(FEE PER PERSON BIKE \$0)

❖ **FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING LODGING OR TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT CONTACT** ❖

Iowa District Team

PHONE: Greg Hayes 515-229-1597 **EMAIL:** hayeswing@gmail.com

PLEASE RSVP ON OR BEFORE: September 30, 2019

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This will begin after Chapter A Get Together, so possibly may be a little later start than 10am.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR: \$Click or tap here to enter text. **PER PERSON**

LUNCH WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

❖ **BRING YOUR GWRRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH YOU TO THE EVENT-THANK YOU** ❖

Holiday Party

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Doors open at 5PM

Dinner at 6PM

Plate Service, and Meat Provided

Bring a dish to share, your beverages, and a "Dirty Santa" gift to swap

Games, Gifts, and Dirty Santa

Walnut Woods State Park Lodge

RSVP: MarshaMPeterson@gmail.com





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